

PROGRAM NUMBER 57

SEPTEMBER 7, 1951

5:30-- 6:00 PM PST

(REVISED)

"N I G H T B E A T"

STARRING

FRANK LOVEJOY

CAST:

RANDY STONE.....	FRANK LOVEJOY	PROGRAM MANAGER.....	HOMER CANFIELD
BIG ED.....		PRODUCTION MANAGER.....	HARRY BUBECK
PORKY.....		ARTIST AGENCY.....	DON W. SHARPE
WILLIE.....		PRODUCER-DIRECTOR.....	WARREN LEWIS
MRS. HOOPER...		WRITERS.....	HERB PURDUM
GRAYSON.....		MUSICAL DIRECTOR.....	ROBERT ARMBRUSTER
PETE (DBL PORKY)		ENGINEER.....	ART BREARLY
AGGIE (DBL MRS. HOOPER)		SOUND.....	ROD SUTTON
		ANNOUNCER.....	DON RICKLES
		SCRIPT CLERK.....	DORIS HARTLEY

1 ANNCR: NBC presents Frank Lovejoy...in....

2 MUSIC: TYMP OPENING

3 ANNCR: (ON ECHO) Night Beat!

4 MUSIC: (THEME HIT AND UNDER:

5 RANDY: Hi. This is Randy Stone. I cover the Night Beat for the
6 Chicago Star. (BEAT) Yeah, Night's my baby...that
7 blanket of star-freckled blackness that God drops over us
8 so everyone can relax and be comfortable in the darkness.
9 (BEAT) Unless, of course, you have troubles. That's
10 when Night becomes your enemy. It makes all those
11 little fears grow into terror, like when you're a kid
12 and you wake up to spot Dad's coat and hat hanging over
13 a chair in the shadows. Oh, yeah, it's only a coat and
14 hat...but with night's help, it grows into the biggest,
15 most terrible monster that ever ate a little boy alive!

16 MUSIC: PUNCTUATE

17 RANDY: And at that point, you'd hock your white mice and every
18 toy you own for one good shot of daylight. (BEAT) Then
19 Night is gone...and it's only Dad's hat and coat again...
20 or whatever little fear it was that you had before.
21 (BEAT) Maybe that's why Night is a good time to pick up
22 a story. Like when I dropped into one of the night
23 courts to look over the evening crop of unhappiness....

24 (MUSIC: OUT)

25 SOUND: CROWD SHUFFLING, MUTTERING

1 CAST: (SULLIEN BABBLE)
2 BIG ED: (OFF. LOUD AND NASTY) Well, well! Here come the
3 sweet and innocents! Someone must have opened a sewer!
4 (LAUGHS BOISTEROUSLY) Move it along, punks.. move it
5 along!
6 CAST: AD LIBS UNDER:
7 RANDY: (BEAT, NARRATING OVER SOUND) They were filing out
8 from the bullpen. Drunks, thieves, mashers.. their
9 stories were as old as Time. (BEAT) And pushing them
10 around - and liking it - was Big Ed Jardin, one of the
11 small-time political leeches that managed to talk his
12 way into a job as a courtroom guard.
13 BIG ED: (OFF, LOUDLY) Want me to count cadence, you
14 malletheads? Move! Line it up! You, too, Porky..
15 (EFFORT) Line it!
16 PORKY: (SLIGHTLY OFF) (ANGRY) Aah, stop shovin'! Just
17 because you gotta badge, you think you're...(TAKES)
18 Hey!..... Randy!
19 RANDY: Hello, Porky. What's the charge tonight?
20 PORKY: (FADE ON) Same charge. My old lady broke my bottle.
21 It was nearly full!
22 RANDY: So?
23 PORKY: So, I slugged her. Gonna keep on slugging her until
24 she quits bustin' my bottles.
25 RANDY: Maybe you should quit drinking.

1 PORKY: Nuts. She ain't got no right to bust my bottle, just
2 'cause she's my old lady.

3' BIG ED (OFF, LOUD) That's the way, characters... now keep
4 in line, and try to look human for the judge! He's
5 kinda sensitive!

6 MUSIC: UP AND UNDER:

7 RANDY: Yeah, all of the stories were old, I'd heard them
8 before. But it was Big Ed who really decided me to
9 skip night court. There were other petty hangers-on,
10 filling odd jobs around the city building. But nobody
11 like Big Ed. I just couldn't take watching him shove
12 the people around. He enjoyed himself too much.

13 SOUND: DOOR OPEN AND CLOSE. CUTTING OFF CROWD SOUNDS. STEPS
14 DOWN HALL (SLIGHT ECHO)

15 RANDY Outside I wandered down the big empty corridor
16 through the sick musty smell of age that all old
17 buildings seem to have. (STEPS ON STAIRS) I took
18 the stairs down, but just before I reached the next
19 floor, I heard him. (STEPS STOP)

20 WILLIE: (OFF) (SHRILL, BOASTFUL) Just listen to me, you guys
21 ... yeah, you, too, Big Ed! You've lorded it over me
22 for a long time, but that's all over... understand?

1 RANDY: It sounded like a man trying to prove something. I edged
2 down the stairs silently, curious as to how he was
3 talking to Big Ed down here, when I'd just seen him
4 upstairs.

5 WILLIE: (FADE ALMOST ON) Ain't none of you Kings gonna fool with
6 Willie Hooper when he's chief runner! Yeah, Chief runner
7 Hooper! You'll be mighty glad to get me to join your old
8 club then!

9 RANDY: It was Willie Hooper, the janitor.....a little guy, not
10 much over five feet tall.....skinny, with a big nose and
11 soft brown eyes that would have been more at home on a
12 poodle. He was shaking his fist as he talked, like a man
13 practicing what he was going to say to the boss the next
14 day. In front of him was his audience.....four rubbish
15 cans, two brooms, one mop.

16 MUSIC: OUT:

17 WILLIE: (SLIGHTLY OFF) In fact, I may not even want to join the
18 Kings. So what do you think of that!

19 RANDY: (GENTLY) You don't sound very sure of that, Willie.

20 WILLIE: (REACTING) Wh-who-----oh, it's you, Mr. Stone.

21 RANDY: Yeah. Sorry to interrupt.

22 WILLIE: (EMBARRASED) Uh, yeah----I-----. I was just getting ready
23 to tell off the Kings.....you know, the City Building
24 Kings.

25 RANDY: That wouldn't be Big Ed's social club?

26 WILLIE: (EAGER) That's it. And I'm going to join them.

1 RANDY: Then why the speech?

2 WILLIE: Well, I don't know -- it's --- well, it's on accounta
3 the way Big Ed and the others have been riding me.
4 They know I want to join to the Kings.

5 RANDY: You must want to join in a bad way.

6 WILLIE: I guess I do. You see, Mr. Stone, I ain't never
7 belonged to nothing in my whole life.

8 RANDY: Oh.

9 WILLIE: (I mean I was never an Elk, or a Mason, or a Lion, or
10 a Optomist. I never belonged to a Union, or a club, or
11 a league -- or anything like that. Just to feel you were
12 part of something -- getting mail telling you about
13 a beer-bust, or a card game -- even to get a letter
14 saying you owe dues. Someplace where you really feel
15 like you belong.) A man's got to belong to something,
16 Mr. Stone. If he don't belong to something he might as
17 well be dead!

18 RANDY: Yeah, but Willie, the Kings -- I've kinda always thought
19 the Kings were barely one rung above sea level!

20 WILLIE: I know, it isn't the best club in the world. But it's
21 a club, Mr. Stone. All the members wear pins....little
22 silver crowns on their coats. 'Cept Big Ed, of course.
23 Being president, he wears a Gold Crown! (HUSKILY)
24 A gold crown. Boy, is that a beautiful pin.....

1 RANDY: Think someday you'll be wearing it yourself, Willie?

2 WILLIE: You never can tell. Maybe I will. After I'm made Chief
3 runner!

4 RANDY: That's a pretty big order.

5 WILLIE: Don't you know? Didn't I tell you? It's all set! Why, Mr.
6 Stone, I worked for weeks, every day....posting handbills,
7 running errands. I didn't even sleep! And Mr. Grayson got
8 elected Alderman. And he promised me the job!

9 RANDY: Well, if he promised - But just remember, Willie,
10 campaign promises are easily broken.

11 WILLIE: He wouldn't break his promise to me, Mr. Stone.

12 SOUND: STEPS FADE ON:

13 WILLIE: (HUSHED) Oh - oh. It's Big Ed.

14 BIG ED: (FADING ON) (JOVIALY) Hi, Stone! Thought I saw you
15 upstairs.

16 RANDY: You did. But I couldn't stand the noise.

17 BIG ED: (NOT GETTING IT) Yeah, those bums are like that.

18 WILLIE: Hiya, Big Ed.

19 BIG ED: Well, well, if it isn't little Willie. Did he tell you,
20 Stone? Willie here is going to be a runner.

21 WILLIE: Chief runner!

22 BIG ED: Chief runner, huh? Willie I'll make you a propoition.

23 When you're chief runner, I'll personally put you in as
24 president of the Kings.

25 WILLIE: I don't want to be president. I just want to be a regular
26 member. And after all, Grayson promised me the job.

1 BIG ED: (SLYLY) Of course he did, Willie.....of course he did.

2 That's why he gave the job to Kittredge last night.

3 WILLIE: What? No. You're kidding me. No, no, he wouldn't do that.

4 You're just trying to get me mad. It's a lie. You're lying!

5 YOU'RE LYING!

6 SOUND: SLIGHT SCUFFLE:

7 BIG ED: (EFFORT, BUT LAUGHING AT WILLIE) Hey, punk, what do you

8 think you were going to do?

9 WILLIE: (PANTING, CRYING) Let me go! I'll kill you!.....

10 RANDY: (HARD) Hands off, Jardin.

11 BIG ED: (PANTING) (SARCASTICALLY) I can't let go. It's dangerous.

12 You heard him, Stone. He'll kill me! (NEEDLING) Isn't that

13 what you said, Willie?

14 RANDY: Put him down, Jardin!

15 BIG ED: (BRUTALLY) Okay, down he goes! (EFFORT)

16 SOUND: SMALL MAN SHOVED BACK, STAGGERING AND FALLING:

17 BIG ED: There! Is that what you wanted? (TAKE) Hey Stone, now,

18 wait.....

19 SOUND: RANDY GRABS BIG ED:

20 BIG ED: (AFTER PAUSE) Now look, Stone, I ain't got nothin'

21 against you!

22 RANDY: (TIGHTLY AND FLAT) It's an old song, Jardin, but it never
23 gets any funnier.

24 BIG ED: (WORRIED NOW) What's the big idea? Get back!

25 RANDY: You take a human being....give him a desire that means

26 more than anything in the world to him. You needle him

27 well, then when he's ready to crack, hit him below the

28 belt and watch him fall apart. Lots of fun.

29 BIG ED: Stay away! I'm warning you!

1 RANDY: (GOING ON) Yeah, it's a real boffola...like watching
2 your mother get run over by a steam roller. Only it
3 makes me sick...so sick I've got to hit something!
4 (EFFORT)
5 BIG ED: Wait!.....Ohhhhh!
6 SOUND: HARD SMACK AND BODY FALL (STEPS STOP)
7 WILLIE: (SLIGHTLY OFF) You hit him, Mr. Stone, what did you
8 have to do that for?
9 RANDY: (SURPRISED) What?
10 WILLIE: (ON) He was just kidding. He didn't mean it. Here,
11 Big Ed...
12 BIG ED: (GROANS) Get away from me! (GETTING UP) I'll
13 remember you for that, Stone!
14 RANDY: Please do.
15 BIG ED: And you too, Willie, get your big hero to tell you
16 about Grayson and his promises. (FADING) Tell him,
17 Stone.
18 SOUND: STEPS FADE OFF
19 WILLIE: (PAUSE) What did he mean?
20 RANDY: Willie...(SIGH) Grayson's not a bad public servant,
21 but his personal promises before an election are
22 something you don't want to depend on.
23 WILLIE: But he meant his promise to me! I know he did!
24 (PAUSE, EAGERLY PLEADING) Mr. Stone...I wonder...
25 would you come with me to see him? I got to know.
26 Would you Mr. Stone?

1 RANDY: (SLOWLY) All right, Willie. Maybe we can straighten
2 this thing out. I'll set up an appointment for
3 tomorrow.

4 WILLIE: Boy, thanks, Mr. Stone.

5 MUSIC: UP AND UNDER

6 RANDY: It was nearly four when I arrived at Willie's house
7 the next afternoon. There wasn't much I could do
8 but help let Willie down easy. (BEAT) His wife
9 opened the door.

10 SOUND: DOOR OPEN

11 MRS. H: Yes? Oh, you must be Mr. Stone. Come in, won't
12 you? I'm Catherine. I'm Bill's wife.

13 RANDY: (BEAT) She was small and her gray hair looked as if
14 it had never seen the inside of a beauty parlor. Her
15 face was lined, and the skin on her hands was red and
16 shrivelled. Bill's wife, she said...funny. I'll bet
17 she was the only person in the world who called
18 Willie Hooper Bill.

19 MUSIC: OUT

20 MRS.H: It's nice of you to go with Bill, Mr. Stone. He
21 has so -- few friends.

22 RANDY: Mrs. Hooper....Maybe Grayson won't keep his promise.

23 MRS. H: (FIRMLY) He will. (BEAT) But if he doesn't, Bill
24 will be elected to the club anyway. They're bound
25 to want Bill!

26 MUSIC: UP AND UNDER

1 RANDY: It was as simple as that with her. (PAUSE) A half an
2 hour later I was entering Grayson's office with a scrubbed
3 and shining Willie Hooper. His gray hair was slicked back,
4 his suit pressed, his tie straight. He kept rubbing his
5 palms on his trousers nervously. He was trying to look at
6 ease, but it was a picture he couldn't quite make come off.

7 SOUND: DOOR OPENS.

8 GRAY: (JOVIALY) Well, well, well, come in, come in! Good to
9 see you again, Stone.

10 RANDY: That was Grayson. White-haired and with a forty pound ball
11 of rich living at the waist, giving his belt a bad time.
12 He flashed us a white and gold smile and made like a
13 politician.

14 MUSIC: OUT.

15 GRAY: Cigar, Mr. Stone?

16 RANDY: No, thanks.

17 GRAY: How about you, Mr....er, uh?

18 WILLIE: Hooper, Mr. Grayson! You remember me! Third precinct.
19 I worked for you in the last election!

20 GRAY: Oh, yes, of course. It's you men in the field that made
21 my position attainable. Fine job. Fine job, indeed.
22 Well, Mr. Stone....is this an interview?

23 RANDY: Not exactly an interview, Mr. Grayson.

24 WILLIE: It's about me, Mr. Grayson. It's about your promise.

25 GRAY: (SHARPLY) Promise? What promise?

26 WILLIE: You remember, before you got elected. Right here. Right
27 here in **this** office. You said I could be chief runner in
28 the City Building.

1 GRAY: I don't remember making any such promise. Of course, I
2 might have been joking. People sometimes tell me my sense
3 of humor is misunderstood.

4 RANDY: Sense of humor?

5 WILLIE: Mr. Grayson, you promised me. I don't think you understand
6 This job means more to me than anything in the world. I
7 told everybody. I already told everybody.

8 GRAY: I don't see how I ever could have made such a commitment.
9 I've given the position to a man well qualified for the
10 job, Paul Kittredge.

11 WILLIE: So Big Ed was right!

12 GRAY: (COLDLY) I told you, you must have misunderstood me.
13 (TO RANDY) Just what's your angle on this, Mr. Stone?

14 RANDY: (EQUALLY COLD) Maybe it's that I don't like seeing human
15 beings hurt, Grayson. I...

16 WILLIE: (QUIETLY) You've got to give me the job, Mr. Grayson.
17 I've told everybody. If you don't give me that job, I'll
18 kill you!

19 GRAY: You'll what!

20 WILLIE: I'll kill you!

21 RANDY: (SHARPLY) Easy, Willie!

22 GRAY: Get out of here, Hooper.

1 WILLIE: I mean it, Mr. Grayson. If you don't give me that job
2 in one week, I swear...I'll kill you!

3 RANDY: Willie, cut it! Go on, wait outside.

4 SOUND: CHAIR SCRAPE, STEPS RUN OFF, DOOR OPEN AND SLAM (OFF)

5 RANDY: Sorry, Mr. Grayson, I didn't know anything like this was
6 in the cards.

7 GRAY: He's a maniac. A homicidal maniac. And as for you,
8 Mr. Stone, I'm going to give you some advice. This isn't
9 to get into the papers. Not a word of it!!

10 RANDY: Get off my back, Grayson!

11 GRAY: I've got a lot of influence, friends. Pretty high up in
12 the publishing business, too. I'd hate to see a bright
13 fellow like you --- ohh!

14 SOUND: RANDY GETS UP QUICKLY.

15 RANDY: Now, Buster, you listen to me and listen to me good.
16 Because I'm only going to sing this song once, and I
17 don't want you to miss a note!

18 GRAY: Listen, Stone...

19 RANDY: (GOING RIGHT ON) You've made your last unkept promise to
20 the Willies of this town. They're a little too trusting,
21 maybe, but they're human beings, and they can get hurt,
22 real hurt, by phoney promises.

1 GRAY: But I...

2 RANDY: You've just got yourself a Boswell, Grayson. I'm going
3 to keep tabs on you so close you won't be able to sneeze
4 without me saying Gesundheit. I'm not only going to write
5 about Willie Hooper, I may even decide to serialize it -
6 day after day -

7 GRAY: (WANTING TO BACKTRACK) Wait...now wait - we -- well,
8 we're grown men - and we're acting like children.

9 RANDY: Maybe I'm allergic to men with influence.

10 GRAY: (TRYING A FEEBLE LAUGH) Why I didn't mean it exactly
11 that way. It was a joke.

12 RANDY: ~~Your~~ sense of humor again.

13 GRAY: Look, maybe I can find a job for Hooper as a watchman or
14 something. There's no reason for you and I to fight.

15 RANDY: Isn't there? Okay, I'll tell Willie about the job. Maybe
16 it will help him pick up the pieces.

17 MUSIC: UP AND UNDER:

18 RANDY: I found Willie back at his job in the City Building. He
19 was mopping the floor slowly, and he was trying to keep
20 from crying -- like a kid that just heard that the
21 department store Santa Claus was really a dressed up wino.
22 (BEAT) I swallowed a lump the size of a cantaloupe and
23 tried to find some words...

24 SOUND: MOPPING SLOWLY.

25 RANDY: I'm sorry, Willie.

- 1 WILLIE: (SOBBING) He could have done it, Mr. Stone. He coulda.
2 All he had to do was lift the phone.
3 RANDY: He said he might find another job for you.
4 WILLIE: You just don't understand. I told all the Kings I was
5 going to be Chief Runner. If I don't get that job, they'll
6 never let me in the club...never!
7 RANDY: Maybe they'll...
8 WILLIE: No! They'll ride me. They'll keep on riding me. You
9 don't know them....
10 RANDY: Listen, Willie, a threat's not the answer. If it weren't
11 for the publicity involved Grayson'd have you locked up.
12 WILLIE: I meant it. If he doesn't give me that job, I'll kill him.
13 RANDY: Forget that crazy talk, right now!
14 WILLIE: You don't think I'll go through with it! Nobody does. But
15 I will, Mr. Stone! If Grayson doesn't give me that job in
16 one week...he's going to die!
17 MUSIC: STAB AND UNDER:
18 RANDY: It was the cry of a cornered rabbit. Willie didn't mean it,
19 and we both knew it. But even as I was telling myself he
20 couldn't hurt a fly, I caught the look in the old man's
21 eyes. No, it wasn't hate...or murder...only desperation
22 fighting its way out. But it made me wonder. How
23 desperate did a man have to be before he'd kill?
24 MUSIC: UP AND OUT FOR FIRST ACT CURTAIN.

1 MUSIC: SECOND ACT OVERTURE. UNDER FOR:

2 ANNCR: And now back to "Night Beat" and Randy Stone...

3 RANDY: (BEAT) Willie Hooper had given Alderman Grayson a week
4 to make good his promise of a job. The job that would
5 bring Willie an invitation to join a social club called
6 the Kings. In my books, the Kings weren't much of a
7 social club, but to Willie, belonging to that club was
8 the most important thing in his life. Yeah. To belong
9 to it, Willie would do almost anything. Even threaten
10 Grayson with death. That's what was worrying me.
11 (PAUSE) But I had my own problems. Stories to write.
12 Bills to pay. It was a couple of days before I looked
13 Willie up. It was his night off as janitor at the
14 City Building. I found him rooting for the Kings...in
15 a bowling alley.

16 SOUND: BALL BOWLED, PINS FALLING (OFF) REPEAT THROUGHOUT THE
17 SCENE

18 CAST: (BABBLE)

19 WILLIE: (YELLING) Atta boy, Harry! Come on, you Kings! Those
20 bakery punks can't lick you!

21 RANDY: Hello, Willie. How's the game going?

22 WILLIE: Kings are winning. They're wonderful. Sit down,
23 Mr. Stone.

24 RANDY: Thanks. (BOWLING, PINS FALLING--OFF)

25 WILLIE: (SHRIEKS) Yaaaay, a strike! That's the way, Big Ed!
26 Man, did you see that strike, Mr. Stone?

27 RANDY: Yeah. Nice.

1 WILLIE: I'm going to practice a lot, so when I join the club I
2 won't be dragging 'em down. I bowled a hundred and
3 twenty-five last week! Pretty good for an old man, huh?
4 BIG ED: (FADE ON) Hi, Stone, how's the boy?
5 RANDY: Hello, Jardin.
6 BIG ED: (BLUFFLY) Call me, Big Ed. I'll call you Randy. We're
7 friends, aren't we?
8 RANDY: I hadn't noticed it.
9 BIG ED: Aw, come on now...I'm the one who got slugged, and I'm
10 not holding any grudges. Besides...we got an interest in
11 common. Willie, here.
12 RANDY: You have something to say, say it!
13 BIG ED: O.K. You want to see Willie happy. I want to see Willie
14 happy. So...I'm going to see that he gets to join the
15 Kings. (BEAT) Just as soon as he gets the job Grayson
16 promised him.
17 WILLIE: I'll get it.
18 RANDY: You know Grayson turned him down.
19 BIG ED: Of course he did! But Willie ain't no man to give in so
20 easy! Didn't you hear? He's given Grayson a week to make
21 good...or he's gonna kill him. Isn't that what you been
22 telling the boys, Willie.
23 RANDY: He's had enough, Jardin.

1 BIG ED: Tell him, Willie...you're a man of your word. Tell
2 Randy here how you're going to kill Grayson if he don't
3 give you that job! Willie, the killer! (LAUGH) Tell
4 him - Go on - tell him!

5 WILLIE: (MUMBLING) I won't have to kill nobody. Grayson will
6 come through. It's only Monday.

7 BIG ED: (NEEDLING) But if he don't come through by Friday
8 midnight, Willie. Then you'll kill him, won't you?

9 RANDY: (SHARPLY) I told you, lay off, Jardin.

10 BIG ED: I'd hate to see you turn chicken, Willie. (POINTEDLY)
11 The Kings don't like liars.

12 WILLIE: (DRIVEN) I ain't no liar! I'll keep my word...only
13 lemme alone! Lemme alone!

14 MUSIC: UP AND UNDER:

15 RANDY: The ball was rolling. Big Ed had started it, but right
16 behind him came the Kings, all eleven of them. Then the
17 neighborhood took it up like a bunch of jackals feasting
18 on a ripe piece of meat. Willie Hooper, the little
19 janitor with the big talk! The old guy who wouldn't step
20 on a cockroach if it bit him! He was going to kill
21 Alderman Grayson! (BEAT) Yeah, it was quite a laugh for
22 everyone....except Willie. And it kept building. On
23 Tuesday...more on Wednesday...still more on Thursday.
24 Willie got it from all sides. From the lusher, hanging
25 on the nearest lamp posts.....

1 PORKY: (DRUNKENLY) Hey, Willie!..Willie, the Killer! Friday's
2 the night, ain't it? (LAUGHS RAUCOUSLY) After you do it,
3 Willie, I'll buy you a drink! I'll buy you a case..if
4 you do it! (MORE LAUGHTER)

5 WILLIE: Aw, lay off, Porky! Will you lay off!

6 CAST: (BUILDING LAUGHTER THROUGH FOLLOWING)

7 RANDY: The bartenders, the clerks, even the painted floozies
8 with all the self respect of a can of beer found Willie
9 someone they could sneer at...and always Big Ed.

10 CAST: (LAUGHTER GROWING)

11 BIG ED: Well, well, if it isn't my favorite killer! Come on,
12 Willie, tell me how you're going to do it Friday night!
13 You are gonna kill him, ain't you, Willie?

14 CAST: (LAUGHTER BUILDING CONTINUE UNDER)

15 RANDY: (BEAT) Yeah, everybody got into the act. A million
16 laughs. And everybody so busy yukking at the idea of
17 Willie killing someone, they didn't see what was
18 happening inside him.

19 PORKY: (DRUNKENLY) How you going to do it, Friday, Willie...
20 with a gun? (LAUGHS) Thatsh my killer!

21 BIG ED: Hey, Willie, it's Thursday! Tomorrow's the night, ain't
22 it...don't turn chicken, Willie!

23 CAST: (LAUGHTER REACHES CRESCENDO)

1 WILLIE: (CRAZILY) I will, I told you I will! I'll kill him...
2 (SOBS) Only leave me alone, leave me alone! (INTO LOUD
3 SOBS)

4 MUSIC: UP AND UNDER:

5 RANDY: By Friday, Willie had become a hunted, cornered animal,
6 twisting and turning to find some escape...and not
7 finding any. By ten o'clock Friday night I gave up trying
8 to work and headed for the City building.

9 MUSIC: OUT.

10 SOUND: STEPS IN HALL (SLIGHT ECHO)

11 BIG ED: (OFF) Hi, Randy! (FADE ON) Where's our boy, Willie,
12 tonight?

13 RANDY: (QUICKLY) He's not here? (STEPS STOP)

14 BIG ED: Hasn't shown up. (LAUGHS, A LITTLE FEEBLY NOW) Guess
15 he's home trying to hide from his brags.

16 RANDY: Yeah...I hope so, Jardin. But I want to be sure.

17 SOUND: STEPS.

18 BIG ED: (FADING) Hey, where you going? Hey!

19 MUSIC: UP AND UNDER:

20 RANDY: I wasn't really worried yet. But I wanted to play it
21 safe, so within a half hour I was knocking on Willie's
22 door. Mrs. Hooper let me in, and by the look on her face
23 I knew Willie wasn't home.

24 MRS. H: (DULLY) He's not here. He's gone.

1 RANDY: Where, Mrs. Hooper?
2 MRS. H: (VAGUE) Where?
3 RANDY: You've got to tell me. Where did he go?
4 MRS. H: Bill wouldn't hurt nobody, Mr. Stone. You know he
5 wouldn't.
6 RANDY: I know. But where is he?
7 MRS. H: Bill's a talker. Bill just likes to talk. He talks but
8 he wouldn't ever do anything.
9 RANDY: (GENTLY) Mrs. Hooper, if you don't tell me, I'll have to
10 call in the police.
11 MRS.H: No! (PLEADING) No, don't do that!
12 RANDY: I don't want to, but...
13 MRS. H: Bill's left town, Mr. Stone. He..he went to visit his
14 cousin in Los Angeles. She works for the phone company.
15 See, that's her picture there. She wrote him to come,
16 because she..she's sick.
17 RANDY: When did he leave?
18 MRS.H: This afternoon.
19 RANDY: (DEEP BREATH) I see. Do you have the letter?
20 MRS: H: (QUICKLY) No. Bill took it with him.
21 RANDY: I see. Mrs. Hooper, I'll have to check this. What is the
22 cousin's address?
23 MRS. H: Check? Oh...I...I don't know her address.
24 RANDY: Her name?
25 MRS. H: M-Mary. Bill never told me her last name. (PAUSE) It's
26 the truth!
27 MUSIC: UP AND UNDER:

1 RANDY: No, I didn't believe her. But I wanted to. There was
2 still time to check her story. I borrowed the picture of
3 Bill's cousin and headed for the Herald-American, a
4 friend and some help.

5 SOUND: NEWSPAPER OFFICE B.G. STEPS, STOPPING:

6 PETE: (FADE ON) Well, hiya, Randy. What can I do for you?

7 RANDY: A big favor I hope. I'll split a story with you in the
8 bargain. Your syndicate has a Herald in Los Angeles,
9 doesn't it?

10 PETE: That's right. Herald Express.

11 RANDY: I need to know something from a woman who works at the
12 phone company out there. No name on her, but I have a
13 picture. Think you can help?

14 PETE: Let's get hold of Aggie Underwood and see. She's the
15 boss lady out there on the day side.

16 SOUND: RECEIVER LIFTED, ZERO DIALED.

17 PETE: (BEAT) Hello, Sally. Get Aggie Underwood in Los Angeles.
18 Ask her to standby for a picture. (BEAT) Yeah. I'll be
19 in the I.N.S. sound photo room.

20 SOUND: RECEIVER REPLACED. CHAIR SCRAPE.

21 PETE: Come on, Randy. We'll wire the picture to L.A. (STEPS)
22 You can tell Aggie what you want to know over the phone.

23 SOUND: STEPS, DOOR OPEN AND CLOSE CUTTING OFF OFFICE B.G.

24 PETE: Set up the picture on the drum, Randy while I get
25 clearance from New York.

1 RANDY: Sure thing. Where's the tape? Never mind, I see it.
2 SOUND: TWO STEPS, TEARING OF TWO STRIPS OF SCOTCH TAPE FROM
3 HOLDER. IN B.G.: SOUND OF TWO RINGS ON OLD FASHIONED
4 HAND CRANK PHONE.
5 PETE: (OFF) New York? Chicago clearance to L.A. One picture.
6 (PAUSE) Thanks.
7 SOUND: RECEIVER REPLACED
8 RANDY: Picture's on.
9 PETE: (FADE ON) Okay, start her up.
10 SOUND: SWITCH, LIGHT HUM; STEADY 1800 CYCLE NOTE ON SPEAKER (OFF)
11 PETE: (LONG PAUSE) That's enough. Start the drum spinning.
12 The setting's okay. Give me a little dash.
13 SOUND: SWITCH, NOTE ON SPEAKER CHANGES TO RHYTHMIC BEEPS, ONE A
14 SECOND AND SOUNDING IN TWO PARTS LIKE: "BEE-DEEP,
15 BEE-DEEP, BEE-DEEP"
16 PETE: Good. While Los Angeles is synchronizing its reception,
17 we'll talk to Aggie.
18 SOUND: FEW STEPS, FOUR RINGS ON OLD FASHIONED CRANK PHONE.
19 PETE: (PAUSE) Hello, Los Angeles. Aggie Underwood there?
20 Yeah, put her on. (PAUSE) Hello, Aggie. Friend of mine
21 on the opposition needs a favor - Randy Stone of the Star.
22 (BEAT) Okay, Randy, you're on. (GOING SLIGHTLY OFF)
23 I'll start the picture rolling.
24 RANDY: Thanks. (BEAT) Hello, Miss Underwood.
25 AGGIE: (FILTER) Hi. What's your problem?
26 SOUND: BEE-DEEPS ON SPEAKER CHANGE TO CONSTANT BEEPS AT SAME
27 SPEED.

1 RANDY: The picture is of a woman who works at the phone company
2 there. How long would it take to find if she wrote her
3 cousin, William Hooper, to come to L.A. because she was
4 sick?

5 AGGIE: (FILTER) No name and address on the woman?

6 RANDY: Just the first name -- Mary.

7 AGGIE: (DRYLY) Big help. I'll get a picture to the phone
8 company and have a mobile radio car standing by to go to
9 the address..

10 RANDY: It's important.

11 AGGIE: I'll do my best.

12 MUSIC: UP AND UNDER:

13 RANDY: One hour, twenty-two minutes by the clock after the
14 picture was transmitted to Los Angeles, they'd identified
15 the woman, and a radio car had gotten the answers and
16 reported them to Aggie at her office. She gave me the
17 report over the phone...

18 AGGIE: (FILTER) Woman is Miss Paula Markham, 1804 Jasmine
19 Street. Admits William Hooper is her cousin, but denies
20 having written him in the last six months. According to
21 our radio car, she's as healthy as a Notre Dame tackle.

22 RANDY: Thanks, Miss Underwood. Thanks very much.

23 MUSIC: STAB AND UNDER:

1 RANDY: Mrs. Hooper had lied all right. I stabbed the receiver
2 on the hook and glanced at my watch. Nearly eleven-thirty.
3 I went out of there like the cork of a champagne bottle.
4 In five minutes I was back at Willie's house talking with
5 his wife. I told her I checked her story and it was no
6 good. After that I got the truth.

7 MUSIC: OUT.

8 MRS. H: (CRYING) He told me to tell you that story. I tried to
9 stop him...But I couldn't. It was like he went crazy,
10 Mr. Stone. He was crying. I never saw Bill cry before.
11 He kept saying over and over that he'd prove he wasn't
12 afraid. Then he grabbed his old army pistol and ran out.
13 Just before you came. I...I don't know where he went.

14 MUSIC: UP AND UNDER:

15 RANDY: I finally put in the call to the police. It wasn't an easy
16 call to make. I beat them to Alderman Grayson's home.
17 Coming up to the big stucco house, I saw lights in the side
18 windows. Then as I looked, the lights were shuttered into
19 blackness. I ran up on the porch and rang the bell...

20 SOUND: STEPS UP PORCH STAIRS, ACROSS THE PORCH AND STOP. DOOR
21 BUZZER (OFF AND MUFFLED)

1 RANDY: No answer. It was my cue to play it safe and wait for
2 the police, but I was afraid if Willie was inside, he
3 might forget to wait. (SOUND: DOOR KNOB TRIED VAINLY)
4 (BEAT) The door was locked. I tried the porch window.....
5 (TWO STEPS, WINDOW RAISED).....with better luck. (MAN
6 CLIMBING IN WINDOW) Inside the foyer I saw a yellow light
7 coming from under a door of Grayson's. (LIGHT STEPS) I
8 made for it and opened it quietly. (DOOR KNOB TURNED)
9 (PAUSE) Grayson was there all right. And so was Willie
10 Hooper. He was holding a big black .45 with both hands to
11 keep it from shaking. When Willie saw me, he backed a
12 little to cover me, too. The muzzle of his gun was a big
13 dark hole.....big enough to get buried in.
14 MUSIC: OUT
15 WILLIE: (OFF) (QUIETLY) I wish you hadn't come, Mr. Stone.
16 No! Don't come any closer.
17 RANDY: Put it down, Willie. That won't solve anything.
18 GRAYSON: (OFF, BABBLING) Don't let him kill me, Stone.....
19 RANDY: Put the gun away, Willie.
20 WILLIE: (OFF) No! (A LITTLE WILDLY) You heard them....the Kings
21 think I'm afraid to kill him. Everybody thinks I'm afraid.
22 But I'm not, Mr. Stone. I'm afraid to kill him.
23 RANDY: No one thinks you're afraid, Willie.

- 1 WILLIE: (OFF) Yes, they do! But I'm not. I'm not afraid
2 anymore. I'll show them.
- 3 RANDY: Drop the gun, Willie!
- 4 WILLIE: (OFF) Stay back!
- 5 RANDY: I just called the police.
- 6 WILLIE: (OFF) That's fine. That's the thing to do. Call the police.
7 I'll give myself up. But afterwards.
- 8 RANDY: Listen, Willie.....
- 9 WILLIE: Get out, Mr. Stone. Get out! Or I'll kill him right now!
- 10 MUSIC: UP AND UNDER:
- 11 RANDY: I got out. There was nothing else I could do. But I didn't
12 go far. I waited out in the hall....waited and listened to
13 Grayson begging for his life while Willie tried to make
14 up his mind to shoot. The police came, and we all stood
15 helplessly in the hallway. There was only one way into that
16 room....the door. We all knew that the turning of the
17 doorknob might be the one thing to make Willie's trigger
18 finger tighten that last eighth of an inch. So we waited..
- 19 GRAYSON:(OFF, MUFFLED) Don't.....please don't....now listen to
20 reason, Hooper.
- 21 WILLIE: (OFF), MUFFLED)Lying to me, making a fool out of me.
- 22 BIG ED: (LOW, HOARSELY) The crazy fool! The crazy little fool!

- 1 RANDY: Hi, Jardin. Come to get a laugh?
- 2 BIG ED: (DEFENSIVELY) It ain't my fault! I wasn't the only one....
- 3 RANDY: (SUDDENLY SHARP) Wait! That pin! (THOUGHTFULLY) Yeah....
- 4 BIG ED: Nobody thought he'd have nerve enough to.....
- 5 RANDY: Take off that pin!
- 6 BIG ED: Huh?
- 7 RANDY: (HARSH) That gold crown in your lapel! Quick!
- 8 BIG ED: Well...well, sure. But what good's that going to do?
- 9 RANDY: (GRIMLY) Your club has a new president, Jardin.
- 10 BIG ED: What?
- 11 RANDY: You just abdicated.
- 12 BIG ED: (PAUSE) Oh, I get it, O.K. Mr. Stone.
- 13 SOUND: KNOCKING ON DOOR
- 14 WILLIE: (OFF),(MUFFLED) Go away! I'm warning you! Go away!
- 15 RANDY: Bill! It's Randy Stone! Listen to me. Big Ed's here.
- 16 He has something to say to you.
- 17 WILLIE: (OFF, MUFFLED) It's too late!
- 18 RANDY: Listen to him, Bill! (DOWN) OK, Jardin, start talking.
- 19 BIG ED: What do I say?
- 20 RANDY: The gold pin. You know what to say.
- 21 BIG ED: (UP) Willie.....
- 22 RANDY: His name's Bill.

1 BIG ED: Uh... Bill! Bill, I've been thinking. You oughta be a
2 member of the club! I got a pin here. A pin just like the
3 one I'm wearing. (PAUSE) Bill? (DOWN) No answer, Stone.
4 RANDY: Keep it up, Jardin, you're doing fine.
5 BIG ED: (UP) Bill, you can have my pin if you want it. You hear
6 me? All this kidding the last couple of days, it was
7 just to see if you could take it. A kind of initiation
8 into the club. And you did fine. You don't have to kill
9 anybody. Understand, Bill? It was all a kind of a gag.
10 (PAUSE) Why don't he answer? What's he doing in there?
11 RANDY: (LOW) Shut up.
12 BIG ED: (BEAT) Stone...look...the door knob! He's coming out.
13 SOUND: DOOR KNOB TURNED: DOOR OPEN:
14 RANDY: (PAUSE) Grayson.
15 CAST: QUICK BABBLE:
16 GRAYSON: (QUIETLY) All right, all right, it's all over. Let me
17 sit down. Get me something to drink.
18 BIG ED: Sure.
19 GRAYSON: What an experience, what an experience. He would have
20 killed me. Killed me. He dropped the gun. But don't
21 take any chances, captain. Grab him when he comes out.

1 RANDY: He's through, Grayson. He's not going to hurt anybody.
2 GRAYSON: Don't take any chances with him, Captain. Here he comes.
3 WILLIE: (PAUSE) (FADING IN SLOWLY) I don't have to kill him?
4 I don't have to kill him? It was all a gag? And the
5 club, I can join the club.
6 RANDY: That's right, Bill. Here's your pin.
7 WILLIE: The pin. Gold. Gosh, it's beautiful. I can keep it?
8 RANDY: You can keep it, Bill.. Big Ed says so.
9 GRAYSON: I'm going to prefer charges of attempted murder,
10 Captain. Take him down to headquarters.
11 RANDY: Just a minute. Mr. Grayson, can I have a word with
12 you? In private?
13 GRAYSON: I have nothing to say to you, Stone, bringing a maniac in
14 here after me.
15 RANDY: It'll just take a minute. I think it'll be worth your
16 while.
17 GRAYSON: (CATCHES SOMETHING IN THE TONE) Uh ...well, for just a
18 minute.
19 SOUND: TWO PAIRS OF STEPS AND DOOR CLOSES:
20 GRAYSON: Listen, Stone, I won't stand for any of your blackmail
21 tactics. If you want to print the fact that I reniged
22 on a campaign platform go right ahead. Just see how much
23 good it will do when this attempted murder story is
24 printed right along side of it.

1 RANDY: You've got a mind like a gutter, Grayson. But just in
2 case ~~your're~~ interested in the prose I have in mind, I'll
3 give you a small synopsis.

4 GRAYSON: Now listen, Stone.....

5 RANDY: You play listener for a while, Grayson. Here's the
6 outline. A little guy named Hooper goes to work for a
7 politician. A little guy with a ten year old brain,
8 maybe. But he believes in something. He believes the
9 new Alderman will make a better life for him. He
10 believes the Alderman's big promises.

11 GRAYSON: Now, Stone, I.....

12 RANDY: The little guy gets the promise of the job. It means
13 everything to him. Dignity. Respect. The decency a
14 mop and pail never gave him. Then, after the alderman is
15 elected, every promise falls flat on its face.

16 GRAYSON: You're not suggesting that Hooper remain free to
17 molest the community? The man is dangerous.

1 RANDY: Yeah, he's plenty dangerous. So are a lot of us.
2 People always get dangerous when somebody makes them
3 a promise and it isn't kept. Hooper was almost driven
4 to murder, Grayson. But not by the killer inside of
5 him. By you. You and the others out there. And if
6 you file charges against him, I'm going to see to it
7 everybody responsible for Hooper's presence here
8 tonight is made to pay the right price.

9 GRAYSON: (PAUSE) All right, Stone. Perhaps the wiser
10 alternative is to....let the entire matter drop.

11 RANDY: Just what I was thinking, Grayson. Now go on upstairs.
12 You look like you could use a good night's sleep.

13 MUSIC: UP TO SEMI CURTAIN AND DOWN FOR:

14 RANDY Grayson went upstairs. William Hoopers went home with a
15 gold pin. The police climbed into their patrol cars
16 and turned up the radio. I went back to the city
17 room, and rolled a blank piece of paper into the
18 machine. I sat for a while, thinking about the Willie
19 Hoppers of the world, about how long it would take
20 them to get angry at all the unkept promises. I
21 finally boiled it down to something tyrants never
22 learn. The most dangerous man on earth is a little
23 guy pushed in a corner.

24 SOUND: PHONE UP:

25 RANDY: COPY BOY!

26 MUSIC: TO TAG OF SHOW: UNDER:

Warren Lewis (director); Herb Perdum (screenwriter); Frank Lovejoy (starring)

Night Beat [Nightbeat] (Original script for the 1951 radio program)

New York: National Broadcasting Company [NBC], 1951. Revised script for the 1951 radio program, "Nightbeat," a National Broadcasting Company (NBC) radio drama series that aired from February 6, 1950 to September 25, 1952, sponsored by Pabst Blue Ribbon Beer and Wheaties cereal, starring Frank Lovejoy. This script for this episode is untitled.

"Nightbeat" came during the competition for audiences between radio and television, and at the tail-end of "radio noir," a style of program that aired during the heyday of film noir. Edmond O'Brien ("D.O. A.," 1950, and several key noirs) was slated to be the lead role, and his narration coupled with William Rousseau's direction and Larry Marcus' script proved too edgy for NBC executives and potential sponsors. The producers ordered a second audition, this time bringing in Frank Lovejoy (1912-1962), who had starred in "The Blue Beetle" radio show in 1940. Lovejoy's reworking of the hard-boiled script added a human element, that of a passionate, crusading reporter for the Chicago Star who covered the night beat, known as "Randy Stone." Stone looked for interesting and strange stories, encountering criminals and troubled souls, some he was able to help. Lovejoy's grasp and delivery of hard-boiled phrases like "painted little dames with their brassy laughter" gave the show the edge it needed to compete with a burgeoning television audience, and an elegant sendoff for radio noir.

The announcer for the program was Don Rickles, and supporting performers included Joan Banks, William Conrad, Paul Frees, Peter Leeds, Lurene Tuttle, and Ben Wright, among others. Lovejoy would reprise his role as the tough guy with a heart of gold in "Search in the Night" (1953), an episode of the 1953-1956 television series, "Four Star Playhouse."

Noted as PROGRAM NUMBER 57 on the first page, dated September 7, 1951, 5:30—6:00 PM EST, with credits for program manager Home Canfield, actor Frank Lovejoy, producer-director Warren Lewis, writer Herb Purdum, and others. 32 leaves, mimeograph duplication. Pages Very Good plus, with dampstains and tiny creases, corner-stapled.

Dunning (1998), p. 507-508.

Pagination:

NOTE: all pages with "REVISED" statement at the header (except pp. 1, 20, 24).

NOTE: pp. 14-15 combined.

NOTE: p. 16 omitted.

[title] (SEPTEMBER 7, 1951], 1-13, 14-15 (combined), 17-33.